

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 19, 22-23, and 25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 19 and 22 are amended; and Claims 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24 and 26 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-13, 15-16, 18-20 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Timmer (U.S. Pub. 2002/0107895) in view of Shurts (U.S. Pat. 5,572,673) and Matsui et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0083119, herein Matsui); and Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Timmer in view of Shurts, Matsui and An et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0077062, herein An).

The Office Action rejects independent Claims 1, 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Timmer in view of Shurts and Matsui. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 19 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1, for example, is amended to recite, in part, a mobile information communication system which supports information exchange and fostering of human relations between a plurality of users, comprising:

- a mobile information communication device comprising ...
 - a central control unit configured to:
 - supply, to a stationary communication device, a first security level indicating a highest security level of metadata permitted to be transmitted from the mobile communication device to the stationary communication device; and
 - said stationary communication device configured to:

¹ e.g., specification, at least at Figs. 9-11 and pp. 23-27.

acquire said first security level and a second security level from another mobile communication device indicating a highest security level of metadata permitted to be transmitted from the another mobile communication device to the stationary communication device;
compare said first and said second security levels;
acquire metadata, which corresponds to the higher of the first and second security levels, from the mobile communication device and the another mobile communication device ...

Independent Claims 7 and 19, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 9 and the paragraph bridging pp. 23-24 of the originally filed disclosure, respective devices are configured to share metadata with a specified security level setting (e.g., 7 and 8) with the stationary communication device. The stationary communication device acquires the security levels, compares them, and then acquires data from the devices corresponding to the higher of the two security level settings (e.g., 8).

Turning to the applied references, p. 4 of the Office Action concedes that Timmer “does not explicitly talk about details of enforcing security.” Therefore, Timmer also fails to disclose the more detailed features directed to exchanging information based on security level, as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 19.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to the security levels, the Office Action relies on Shurts.

Shurts describes a database which allows security settings to be included with different database objects such as database tables or rows. Shurts further describes that attributes of database object (such as table ID or owner) can be included in the database. As characterized at the bottom of p. 5 of the Office Action, Shurts appears to describe “deployment of MAC rules to enforce security, which supplies data to a requestor only if the level and/or category of the requestor matches that of the requested data”.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 19, in contrast, are amended to recite that the stationary communication device acquires “a first security level indicating a highest security level of metadata permitted to be transmitted from the mobile communication device to the stationary communication device” and “second security level from another mobile communication device indicating a highest security level of metadata permitted to be transmitted from the another mobile communication device to the stationary communication device”. Then, the stationary communication device “*compares said first and said second security levels*” and “acquires metadata, *which corresponds to the higher of the first and second security levels*, from the mobile communication device and the another mobile communication device”.

As noted above, Shurts merely describes granting access to data to a requestor who is authorized to access the data, and fails to teach or suggest the process of comparing security levels of two devices and acquiring metadata from the two devices based on the higher of the two security level settings, as claimed.

Further, Matsui merely describes a process of facilitating a chat room between users interested in the same merchandise, and fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Timmer and Shurts.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 19 (and any claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

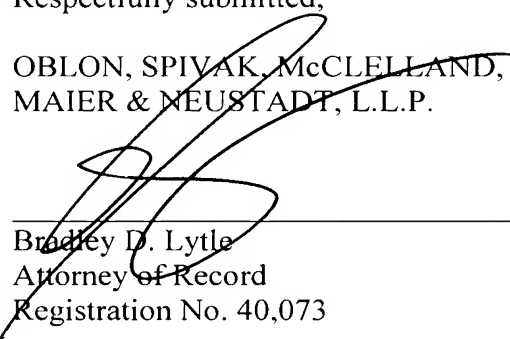
Regarding the rejection of Claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Timmer in view of Shurts and An, Applicant notes that Claims 22, 23 and 25 depend from one of independent Claims 1, 7 and 19, and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that An fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Timmer, Shurts and Matsui.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 22, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 19, 22-23, and 25 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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